

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04643 01 OF 02 061542Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----019042 061547Z /41
O 061514Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2423
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 4643

EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP(DAYAN, MOSHE), IS, US, EG
SUBJ: VISIT BY DAYAN TO WASHINGTON

REF: (A) STATE 87128, (B) TEL AVIV 4580

1. BY THIS TIME YOU EVIDENTLY HAVE HEARD FROM DINITZ THAT DAYAN DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FRUITFUL FOR HIM TO COME TO WASHINGTON TO SEE YOU ON APRIL 12 IN VIEW OF YOUR VERY TIGHT SCHEDULE AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED. WE LEARNED LAST NIGHT FROM EVRON OF DINITZ' DISCUSSION WITH YOU AND UNDERSTAND THAT HE CONVEYED THIS TO YOU ON DAYAN'S BEHALF.

2. I HAD A CHANCE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT BRIEFLY WITH BEGIN AT LUNCHEON TODAY (APRIL 6) ABOARD THE USS NIMITZ. HE SAID THAT AS SOON AS DAYAN RETURNED LATE YESTERDAY FROM ROMANIA HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH BEGIN BY TELEPHONE AND HAD PERSUADED BEGIN THAT A TRIP OF SUCH SHORT DURATION WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO BE FRUITFUL. BEGIN SAID HE HAD THEREFORE AGREED WITH DAYAN'S JUDGMENT.

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3. AFTER RETURNING TO TEL AVIV THIS AFTERNOON I SPOKE WITH DAYAN BY PHONE. HE TOLD ME ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT IN FACT HIS REASONS WERE ONLY PARTLY RELATED TO THE TIGHT SCHEDULE. HE HAD NOT CHANGED THE VIEW HE EXPRESSED TO ME LAST FRIDAY AT LUNCH THAT IT WAS TIME FOR THE U.S. TO PRESENT THE ISRAELIS WITH A COMPREHENSIVE

VIEW OF WHAT THE END OF THE ROAD WOULD LOOK LIKE WITH REGARD TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. HOWEVER, HE SAID IT NOW LOOKS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THIS IS THE APPROACH SADAT ALSO HAS STARTED TAKING IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH WEIZMAN, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH DAYAN VERY MUCH WELCOMED. HE SAID HE THINKS IT WOULD BE A VERY BAD IDEA FOR HIM AND WEIZMAN TO BE DISCUSSING ESSENTIALLY THE SAME SUBJECT IN DIFFERENT CAPITALS AT THE SAME TIME, A PROCEDURE WHICH TO HIS MIND COULD LEAD TO INFINITE CONFUSION. HE THEREFORE WANTS WEIZMAN TO CARRY THE BALL AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITH SADAT, AND HE, DAYAN, WILL "HAPPILY" STAY ON THE SIDELINES. HE MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR, ALTHOUGH MORE BY INFERENCE THAN BY DIRECT STATEMENT, THAT HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF WEIZMAN'S IDEAS, AND MOREOVER THAT HE THINKS HE HIMSELF SHOULD BE THE ONE DOING THE NEGOTIATING WITH SADAT. SINCE THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE IS AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT "OPTING OUT." AND DAYAN CLAIMS THAT BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AGREED WITH HIS JUDGMENT--SOMETHING WHICH SEEMS PASSING STRANGE IN LIGHT OF BEGIN'S CLEAR STATEMENT TO ME IN OUR LAST MEETING THAT DAYAN SHOULD DEFINITELY GO TO WASHINGTON IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE WHOLE EPISODE SEEMS FRAUGHT WITH BOTH ELEMENTS OF PERSONAL PIQUE AND OF THE LACK OF COORDINATION AT THE TOP OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHICH INCREASINGLY SEEMS TO DOG THE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT ONE THING WAS QUITE CLEAR: DAYAN IS LEAVING THE PROBLEM TOOTHED AT LEAST

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FOR THE MOMENT.

4. DAYAN HAS ALSO MADE VERY CLEAR THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN WASHINGTON NEGOTIATING ABOUT POLITICAL SUBJECTS WHILE BEGIN WAS IN THE UNITED STATES SPEAKING TO JEWISH COMMUNITY GROUPS. HE SAID THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY FROM BEGIN'S POINT OF VIEW (ALTHOUGH BEGIN HAS SAID TWICE TO ME THAT HE WOULD NOT OBJECT IF DAYAN WERE IN WASHINGTON WHILE HE WAS IN THE U.S.), AND WOULD ONLY FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS. HE LINKED THIS JUDGMENT ALSO TO WHAT HE SAID WAS BEGIN'S "INSISTENCE" ON MAKING PUBLICLY CLEAR IN RECENT INTERVIEWS THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO CHANGE ANY OF HIS CENTRAL POSITIONS.

5. DAYAN WILL BE GOING TO SCANDINAVIA ON MAY 6 FOR ABOUT TEN DAYS. IT IS THEREFORE APPARENT THAT THE EARLIEST

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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EXDIS DIST AS NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

HE COULD BE DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THIS SUBJECT EXCEPT IN ISRAEL WOULD BE WELL AFTER THE MIDDLE OF MAY. HE ACCEPTS THIS FACT WITH GREAT EQUANIMITY AND SEEMS ALMOST PLEASED TO LET WEIZMAN CARRY THE BALL AS FAR AS HE CAN DO IN THE MEANTIME. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, DAYAN DID SAY THAT OF COURSE ROY ATHERTON WOULD BE WELCOME HERE AT ANY TIME SHOULD WE HAVE A DESIRE FOR HIM TO COME; HIS LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR AN ATHERTON MISSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS HOWEVER APPARENT. HE MADE SOMETHING OF A POINT OF SAYING HE THOUGHT ANY NECESSARY NEGOTIATIONS HERE COULD BE EQUALLY WELL HANDLED BY ME, WITHOUT WANTING TO CAST ANY ASPERSIONS ON ROY. I CONCLUDED THE CONVERSATION BY SAYING I UNDERSTOOD HIS POSITION AND THAT WE WOULD JUST SEE WHERE THINGS LED ON THE WEIZMAN TRACK FOR THE TIME BEING.

6. I AM DISCOURAGED ABOUT THE RESULT OF THIS ABORTIVE EFFORT TO GET DAYAN AGAIN RE-ENGAGED. AS WILL BE APPARENT FROM RECENT EXCHANGES BETWEEN ME AND HERMANN EILTS, THERE IS FAR FROM AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN WEIZMAN AND SADAT AS TO EVEN WHAT THE NEXT PROCEDURAL
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STEPS IN THEIR DIALOGUE SHOULD BE. I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO ALERT WEIZMAN TO THIS CONFUSION AND SUGGESTED THAT HE MAY WANT TO CLARIFY IT DIRECTLY THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS. PRESUMABLY HE WILL GO BACK TO CAIRO

AGAIN SOMETIME LATER THIS MONTH; HE HIMSELF DOUBTS THAT
IT WOULD BE BEFORE APRIL 18. BUT I AM NOT SANGUINE THAT
HIS NEXT TRIP WILL PRODUCE A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN HIS
LAST ONE.

7. JUST WHERE THIS LEAVES US I DEFER TO WISER HEADS IN
WASHINGTON TO ASSESS.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, CAT-B, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TELAV04643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: EXDIS DIST AS NODIS, FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMB
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840137-1529, N780004-0297
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780483/aaaacsxj.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bcb3d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 87128, 78 TEL AVIV 4580
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3048733
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT BY DAYAN TO WASHINGTON
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, IS, US, EG, (DAYAN, MOSHE)
To: STATE SS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bcb3d4b4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014